



TIBETAN BULLETIN

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Plenary Discussion organised by CTA

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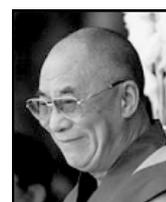
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His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivers statement on the 30th death anniversary of 10th Panchen Rinpoche



Commemorating the 30th death anniversary of the 10th Panchen Choekyi Gyaltsen, His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivered a video statement remembering Panchen Rinpoche's legacy and his immeasurable contribution to Tibet.

The Panchen Lama is considered to be one of the most revered religious leaders of Tibet. His Holiness the Dalai Lamas and Panchen Lamas share a special spiritual relationship and are referred to as the 'Sun and the Moon' in the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual firmament.

In the five-minute video tribute, His Holiness the Dalai Lama described Panchen Rinpoche as an extraordinary spiritual figure who not only served the Buddha dharma but worked tirelessly for the happiness and well-being of the people of Tibet.

"The lineage of Panchen Rinpoche has made tremendous contribution to

Buddha dharma, in particular, the great 10th Panchen Rinpoche," His Holiness said.

"Rinpoche's devotion and service towards the Tibetan people and religion remained intact despite facing hardships for many years. Had he lived longer, I am certain that it would have been truly beneficial."

"His passing away will remain an irreplaceable loss for Tibet."

His Holiness further commented on the reincarnation of the 10th Panchen Rinpoche and observed that there are instances in Tibetan Buddhist tradition where a reincarnate lama took more than one manifestation.

"The great Khyentse Wangpo manifested five incarnations (Body, Speech, Mind, Quality, and Activity). It is possible that there can be more than one emanations."

"I always say it in my prayers and firmly believe that if a great being, irrespective of origin, is effectively serving Buddha Dharma with the spiritual knowledge and application, then it is good," His Holiness concluded.

The video message was requested by North America Committee for the observation of Thank you 10th Panchen Lama year.

The title 'Panchen' is made up of the first syllable of two words 'Pandit', a Sanskrit word meaning scholar, and 'Chenpo', a Tibetan word meaning great. Therefore it is a title given to great scholars.

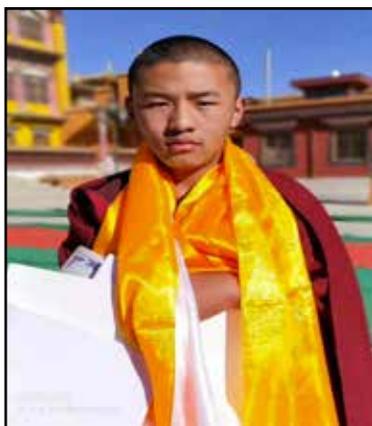
In the 17th century, His Holiness the Fifth Dalai Lama gave his teacher, Lobsang Choekyi Gyaltsen, the then abbot of Tashi Lhunpo Monastery, the title of Panchen Lama, and declared that he would be reincarnated in a child and that he would continue to be reborn in an unbroken lineage of successors.

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17-year-old Monk arrested after calling for freedom in Tibet

A 17-year old monk named Sangay Gyatso was detained by local Chinese authorities on 10 December this year for staging a peaceful protest calling for 'Freedom in Tibet.' The protest took place on the main street of Ngaba County town in Ngaba Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, in the Tibetan province of Amdo (Incorporated into China's Sichuan Province).



Sangay Gyatso, 17, staged a peaceful solo protest calling for 'Freedom in Tibet' on the streets of Ngaba on 10 December 2018.

10 December is a significant date as it marks the World Human Rights Day and the 29th anniversary of the conferment of Nobel Peace Prize upon His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

According to our sources at Kirti Jeypa monastery based in Dharamshala, Sangay Gyatso carried out the protest shouting slogans calling for "Freedom for Tibet". The local Chinese police immediately arrived at the protest site, manhandled him and took him away to an undisclosed location. Sangay was severely beaten up before he was detained. Sources said the incident was witnessed by local passersby. His current whereabouts is unknown.

Sangay Gyatso hails from a nomadic family in Soruma village in Choejema Township of Ngaba County. His father's name is Jekar Soepa and mother's Wangkho. Sangay is a monk at the local

Kirti Monastery and a 9th-grade student of elementary Buddhist studies in the monastery.

The news of two self-immolations in Amdo Ngaba doing rounds cannot be confirmed as of now.

European Parliament's Intergroup ranks China amongst worst violators of Freedom of Religion

The United States Congress unanimously passed the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, by which Chinese officials who prevent American diplomats, journalists and citizens from entering Tibet would be denied admission to the US. The bill will now be presented to the US President Trump to sign it into a law.

President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration thanked the United States Congress for passing the significant bill. He acknowledged the leadership of International Campaign for Tibet in advocating and facilitating the successful passage of the bill in both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"I congratulate and acknowledge the leadership of International Campaign for Tibet, in particular, ICT Chair Richard Gere and President Matteo Mecacci in successfully lobbying the Congress in passing the bill," President said.



Representative Image

"I especially thank Congressman Jim McGovern for his extraordinary leadership in introducing the bill and Congressman Randy Hultgren; Senators Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Tammy Baldwin in getting the bill passed.

Thanks to everyone who have worked towards this important landmark."

Dr Sangay also acknowledged the Office of Tibet in Washington DC, Tibetan associations in the US and American friends who lobbied successfully and participated in many ways to have members of the Congress to support the bill.

On his multiple visits to Washington DC, President Sangay has met with House Representatives and Senators and urged them to support the bill.

The Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act was introduced in the US House of Representatives by Representatives Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) and Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.) and in the Senate by Senators Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.)

Since 2014, the International Campaign for Tibet (ICT) in coordination with Tibetan-American associations and Tibet support groups has led the effort to approve the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act. Several thousand ICT members, Tibetan community members and American friends contacted their members of Congress to ask them to support the bill.

"China's repression in Tibet includes keeping out those who can shine a light on its human rights abuses against the Tibetan people," said Senator Marco Rubio, who introduced the companion bill in the Senate. "We should not accept a double standard where Chinese officials can freely visit the United States while at the same time blocking our diplomats, journalists and Tibetan-Americans from visiting Tibet. I look forward to President Trump signing this bill into law that will help to restore some measure of reciprocity to America's relationship with China."

ICT President Matteo Mecacci said, "This is truly a historic moment in the United States' support of the Tibetan people and for its strategic security interests in the region. By passing this landmark bill, which implements the diplomatic principle of reciprocity,

Congress is saying loud and clear that Tibet's future is and will continue to be a foreign policy priority for the US. Furthermore, the American people's overwhelming support for Tibet shows that the citizens of the free world are opposed to unfair policies that foster Beijing's authoritarian rule and influence all over the world."

"Now that Congress has passed the bill, it is imperative that President Trump sign it into law and that the State Department take every measure to identify and hold accountable the Chinese officials who are responsible for discriminating against Americans and Tibetans," said ICT's Vice President Bhuchung K. Tsering.

Solutions for Human Rights Situation in Tibet discussed at side event paralleling UNHRC session

The human rights situation in Tibet under the Chinese occupation was brought under spotlight once again at the UN Human Rights Council this at its 39th session.

Society for Threatened Peoples, an international group protecting minority peoples who are threatened by oppressive regimes, organised a side event titled 'Human Rights in China-Seeking Solutions: The Case of Tibet Autonomous Region and the areas where Tibetans live.'

The event featured two prominent speakers: Dhardon Sharling, Secretary for Information, Department of Information and International Relations, Central Tibetan Administration and Taisuke Komatsu from International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR). Adrien-Claude Zoller, President of Geneva for Human Rights, moderated the session.

Highlighting the fact that China's push for human rights with Chinese

characteristics, which places development above human rights, is not only a threat to Tibet but also to the norms underpinning the UN human rights system, Secretary Dhardon Sharling said that China's 3rd cycle of Universal Periodic Review due on 6th November this year presents a good opportunity to highlight the human rights situation inside Tibet and strengthen advocacy for Tibet.

She said that instead of naming and shaming China, "we are committed to requesting member States to engage with China and make China accountable under the UN Human Rights system." Tibetans' main goal is "to ensure that the human rights situation in Tibet remains atop the UPR agenda. UN agenda in the long run as redressing the rights violations in Tibet has the potential to create change for a larger human rights situation in China," added Secretary Dhardon.

"China has failed to implement even the simplest of provisions to protect Tibetans' rights including the recommendations accepted in both of the previous UPR cycles. Furthermore, China's tactics to



File photo of Dopo

silence criticism of its behaviour have been even more aggressive, so we need to press governments harder and ensure that they robustly scrutinize China in this UPR," concluded Secretary Dhardon.

Citing China's attempt to undermine the civil society efforts at the UN, Taisuke Komatsu warned "hostility and denial attitude" from China in the upcoming UPR. He further elaborated the recent concluding observation of UN Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on China.

The panellists jointly called on UN member states and civil society to actively participate in upcoming China's third cycle of Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and urged the member states to critically and constructively engage with China in upholding universal human rights protection and promotion mechanisms.

US State Dept. supports Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, Congress rejects China's authority to choose next Dalai Lama

The US Department of State supports the goals of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act and will take steps to implement the bill if it becomes law, a department official said at a Subcommittee Hearing titled 'The China Challenge, Part 3: Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law' on 4 December. The hearing also affirmed US's clear position on the Dalai Lama's reincarnation, saying that the Congress would reject the Chinese government appointment of the next Dalai Lama.

Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colorado) presided over the hearing which lasted for around two and a half hours.

Members of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific and International Cybersecurity Policy and representatives from the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) attended the hearing.

During the session of Questions on Tibet, Sen Gardner asked several questions to Laura Stone, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau Of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, US Department of State, mainly with regard to implementing the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2002 and issues relating to the recognition of the reincarnation of His Holiness the



Dalai Lama.

“I ask the question regarding the Catholic Church policy, the agreement they reached with China and with Dalai Lama, China has said that they will pick the next Dalai Lama... If China proceeds and imposes the new Dalai Lama, what would the US response be?”

Laura Stone, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau Of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, US Department of State responded: “The fact that you’re asking that question is an important signal in itself to the Chinese government that this is the kind of issue that we are watching very closely and at very senior levels.”

“The US has a clear position that religious decisions should be made within religious organizations. This isn’t the role of State.” She added that the position is widely supported by the US public.

Sen Gardner thanked the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the response statement and said, “I think it’s clear that this Congress would not recognize a Chinese imposition [of a new Dalai Lama]”

Mentioning the Tibetan Policy Act of 2002, which mandates American officials to visit Tibet on a regular basis, Sen Gardner said: “We know that very few [American] diplomats and officials have been able to visit Tibet to date primarily because of issues with the Chinese government refusing to grant access. Could you describe the level of access to Tibet that your agency has received over the past three years?”

Laura Stone responded by saying that she did not have the exact details and asked to produce the report at a later point. However, she informed the chair that

the US Department of State supports the goals of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act and will take steps to implement the bill if it becomes law.

The Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act promotes access to Tibet for United States officials, journalists, NGOs and citizens. The Chinese officials who deny Americans entry to Tibet will be denied entry to the US according to the Act. Last week, the Act was unanimously approved by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It now needs to pass the full Senate and be signed into law by President Trump.

Previously in her testimony, Laura Stone expressed that Department is concerned about the lack of meaningful autonomy for Tibetans, and “regularly urge China to cease restrictions on the rights of Tibetans, as well as their unique religious, linguistic, and cultural traditions and practices.”

“There have been continued reports that Tibetan Buddhists have been subjected to forced disappearance, physical abuse, arbitrary detention, and arrest. The Chinese government asserts authority over the selection, approval, and veneration of reincarnations of Tibetan Buddhist lamas and supervises their religious education. We remain concerned about the lack of meaningful autonomy for Tibetans, and we regularly urge China to cease restrictions on the rights of Tibetans, as well as their unique religious, linguistic, and cultural traditions and practices,” she said.

Gloria Steele, acting assistant administrator in the Bureau for Asia at USAID, highlighted the USAID’s support for Tibetans inside Tibet and in exile.

“As an oppressed religious minority in China, Tibetans face restrictions on their rights, as well as their unique religious, linguistic and cultural traditions and practices. With strong bipartisan support in Congress, USAID partners to help protect and preserve Tibetans’ threatened way of life.

For nearly 20 years, USAID has

supported Tibetan communities in and around the Tibet Autonomous Region and in other areas of China. Within China, we support the promotion and preservation of Tibetan culture and the resilience of Tibetan communities... To-date, USAID has supported the preservation of nearly seven million Tibetan cultural heritage items, including documented cultural traditions and historically important Tibetan texts — many previously unknown, including text composed by the Fifth Dalai Lama, Steele said.

Since 2012, USAID has supported Tibetan communities in India and Nepal by strengthening their health and education systems; professional training for teachers in 75 Tibetan schools, benefitting over 21,000 students in India and Nepal; bolstered the public leadership skills of over 330 Central Tibetan Administration staff, pilot program to help sustain or grow businesses through small, low-interest loans. In the 2017 fiscal year, the program helped more than 800 microenterprises with a 100 percent on-time repayment rate.

CTA President mourns the demise of Tibetan political prisoner Ven Palden Gyatso



CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay mourns the demise of Tibetan political prisoner, Ven Palden Gyatso.

CTA President Dr Lobsang Sangay expressed his grief over the demise of former Tibetan political prisoner Ven Palden Gyatso, who passed away earlier in Dharamshala at the age of 87.

“We are profoundly saddened by the news of the demise of Ven Palden Gyatso. He was truly a patriot who

suffered for so long,” President said.

“Many around the world were greatly moved by the indomitable spirit and valour with which he fought for the dignity and freedom of the Tibetan people.”

“I have known him for twenty years and had the opportunity to interview him for the report by International Commission of Jurists titled ‘Tibet: Human Rights and the Rule of Law’. Later he was awarded the John Humphrey Freedom Award by the Canadian human rights group, Rights and Democracy. I also had the privilege to assist him as a translator on his speaking tour of New England and the US in the 2000s. I have also shared a speaking panel with him.”

He concluded, “Ven Palden Gyatso devoted his entire life to the cause of Tibet. Let us all be inspired by his lifelong commitment and thereby pledge to strengthen the Tibetan freedom struggle.”

A Tibetan Buddhist monk and former Tibetan political prisoner, Palden Gyatso has spent 33 years in Chinese prisons and labour camps. Born in the Tibetan village of Panam in 1933, Gyatso was ordained as a Buddhist monk during the Chinese invasion of Tibet. Gyatso was arrested in 1959 by Chinese authorities and incarcerated for peacefully demonstrating against the invasion. He was forced to participate in “re-education” classes, starved, endured hard labour, and was brutally tortured. Released from prison in 1992, Gyatso fled to India and brought with him some of the instruments of torture used against him as proof of the abuses of the Chinese regime. Gyatso has dedicated his life to raising awareness about the plight of the Tibetan people. He has testified before the United Nations and the U.S. Congress. His flagship memoir “Fire Under the Snow” published in 1998 was translated into 28 languages and sold more than a million copy. His other memoir, “The Autobiography of a Tibetan Monk,” was published in 1997. He was the subject of the 2008 film “Fire Under the Snow.”

Tibetan Monks Forced to Undergo Training- Another Move to Control Tibetan Buddhism?

The Chinese Communist Party is forcing Tibetan Buddhist Monks in Chamdo Prefecture in Eastern Tibet to undergo trainings in a bid to increase “knowledge of law amongst local Tibetans”. This is being aggressively pushed forward by the local United Work Front Department and the Ethnic and Religious department.

According to London-based advocacy group Free Tibet, the eight-day training program focusing on the key messages



Forty-two religious figures from Buddhist monasteries across Chamdo are forced to undergo a training on the Chinese Communist Party's policies and key messages from China's 19th National Congress. Photo obtained from FreeTibet.org

from China's 19th National Congress and Communist Party's policies was imposed on 42 religious figures from Buddhist monasteries across Chamdo in the mid of November this year. These participants are now liable to ensure that the messages are relayed to the monasteries and fellow monks.

This move appears to be a part of the larger scheme of Chinese Communist Party to control Tibetan Buddhism. The Order no.5 by China's State Administration of Religious Affairs was one of the earliest direct interference in the administration of the Tibetan Buddhism which made it compulsory for all reincarnated lamas to register themselves.

“It now appears that the lamas or tulku who are going to pass away have to first notify the Chinese Communist Party

about their intention to pass away and then seek permission to be reborn as a “tulku” in the next birth,” remarked Thubten Samphel, former Director of Tibet Policy Institute, Central Tibetan Administration.

The patriotic education and reeducation of the Buddhist monks are ongoing campaigns imposed by the Chinese Communist Party since the occupation of Tibet and have been further intensified in the recent times. There has been systemic repression of Tibetan Buddhism and moves to control the monasteries. The administration of most of the major monasteries in Tibet have been taken over by Communist government controlled Democratic Management Committees (DMCs) which is comprised of ‘patriotic’ monks and nuns, party cadres and ‘trusted’ government officials.

“The legal training programs launched across Tibet is yet another example of CCP's efforts in controlling Tibetan Buddhist Monasteries. In yet other reports, these training programs are being used as the basis to examine the loyalty of the Buddhist monks. Instead of examining the knowledge of the monks on the religious scriptures that they study, they are now forced to sit for examinations on Chinese laws, propaganda policies and the recent amendments to the Chinese Constitution,” said Thinlay Chukki, an Officer of UN and Human Rights Desk under Department of Information and International Relations, CTA.

The Chinese Communist Party's repressive policies specially targeting the Tibetan Buddhist Institutes have forced them to stand up against such policies, which in turn is another pretense for the Chinese government to view these Buddhist centres as nuclei of resistance against China. The irony is that China wants to use the same Tibetan Buddhism, which it has been trying to suppress and control, to promote its massive Belt and Road Initiative across the world. In view of which these so-called “legal trainings” appears to be just another move to control Tibetan Buddhism.

The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approves Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act

The United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, under which the Chinese officials who deny Americans entry to Tibet will be denied entry to the US.

The US House of Representatives passed the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act on 25 September 2018. The bipartisan bill promotes access to Tibet for United States officials, journalists, NGOs and citizens. The legislation requires the Department of State to deny visas to individuals who have been involved



Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) being thanked by ICT President Matteo Mecacci after the vote. Photo from ICT

in restricting access by foreigners to Tibetan areas of China, and it requires the department to revoke existing visas issued to such individuals.

The bill now on its final course is expected to be taken up by the Senate.

Matteo Mecacci, president of the International Campaign for Tibet said, “The unanimous support expressed today by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) once again reflects the widespread concern of the American people for the situation inside Tibet and for the lack of access for US citizens.”

“We wish to thank in particular the main sponsor of the bill in the Senate, Sen. Rubio, and the Chairman and Ranking Member of the SFRC, Sen. Corker

and Sen. Menendez, for their steadfast and principled stance in support of reciprocity in US-China relations.”

The bill was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and has 13 cosponsors as of Nov. 28, with Sens. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Susan Collins (R-Maine), Ed Markey (D-Mass.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.)

The Act also highlights the discriminatory process that Tibetan-Americans have to go through at the Chinese Embassy and consulates when they apply for visas to visit Tibet on pilgrimage or to meet their relatives.

“Under the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, the Secretary of State will have to send a report to Congress identifying the Chinese officials responsible for these unfair policies. Those officials will then be denied visas to enter the US until China’s policies change,” the ICT said.

“Currently, China heavily restricts Americans (as well as all foreigners) from entering Tibet—a historically independent country that China has occupied for nearly 70 years—even though Chinese citizens are free to travel throughout the US and other democratic countries.”

It further said, “In recent years, politicians from both parties have become increasingly outraged at China’s unfair treatment of the US and have demanded that China’s government reciprocate on issues of trade as well as freedom of access for American journalists, diplomats and citizens.”

Over the past year, Tibetan-Americans and Tibet supporters throughout the US have been reaching out to their Members of Congress to ask them to raise the issue of access to Tibet and to support the bill. (Source: ICT)

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Wangdue Tsering Pesur takes charge as new Secretary of Home Department



Wangdue Tsering Pesur takes charge as new Secretary of Department of Home from outgoing Secretary Chhimey Rigzen. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

Wangdue Tsering Pesur, former Director of Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts (TIPA), formally took charge as the Secretary of Department of Home from outgoing Secretary Chhimey Rigzen.

A brief ceremony of handing over was held at the Department. Karma Singey, Secretary of Department of Education attended the ceremony as the official witness.

All staff of the Department greeted the outgoing and new Secretary by offering traditional scarves. Customary Tibetan butter tea and sweet rice were served.

New Secretary for Coordinators’ Office, Nepal



Tsultrim Gyatso, coordinator for Tibetans in Nepal presenting souvenir to the outgoing Secretary Lhakpa Dorjee Geling.

The handover ceremony between the incoming and outgoing Secretary of Coordinators Office, Nepal was held on 22 – 23 November 2018. The handing over ceremony took place in presence

of Tsultrim Gyatso, coordinator for Tibetans in Nepal.

During the ceremony on 23 November, Tibetan parliamentarian Sonam Norbu Dratsa along with Chairman of the local Tibetan assembly, settlement officers of various Tibetan settlements in Nepal, principals of schools, and heads of various Tibetan governmental and non-governmental organisations attended the ceremony.

The Coordinator's office presented a souvenir to the outgoing Secretary Lhakpa Dorjee Geling to express their gratitude for his service and leadership.

CTA issues Response to China's White Paper on Tibet's Environment

The Central Tibetan Administration issued an official response to China's White paper on Tibet's environment entitled 'Central Tibetan Administration's Response to the People's Republic of China's White Paper on Tibet's Ecology, 2018'.

At a press conference held at DIIR, Secretaries Sonam Norbu Dagpo and Tenzin Dhardon Sharling and Head of the Environment desk of Tibet Policy Institute, Tempa Gyaltzen unveiled the official document.

"Environmental concerns are apolitical and universal in impact. The ecological health of the Tibetan Plateau which also functions as the roof of the world is vital for the well-being and sustainability of the entire world including China," said Secretary Sonam Norbu.

Head of the Environment research desk of Tibet Policy Institute, Tempa Gyaltzen called out China on its failure to mitigate the alarming climatic conditions in Tibet and for further aggravating the environmental crises by increasing scale of resource extraction and dam construction across Tibet.



DIIR Secretaries Sonam Norbu Dagpo and Tenzin Dhardon Sharling and Head of the Environment research desk of Tibet Policy Institute, Tempa Gyaltzen unveiled 'Central Tibetan Administration's Response to the People's Republic of China's White Paper on Tibet's Ecology, 2018'. Photo/Passang Dhondup/CTA

While he welcomed China's past initiatives in environmental protection, including the introduction of the 2015 new Environment Protection Law, Researcher Tempa Gyaltzen said the recent policies pursued by the Chinese leadership are not reflected in the ground practices and implementation.

Further, he cited the increase in the building of mega dams, expansion of resource extractions, and suppression of peaceful environment-related protests as a sharp contradiction to the environmental law of 2015. "Cases of such contradictions and insincerity are numerous," he said.

The 21-page official response covers extensively on the impact of climate change on the Tibetan Plateau; Destructive mining, breach of environmental norm; Irresponsible damming: Mega dams destabilizing the fragile plateau and threatening millions of lives in Asia; Forceful removal of Tibetan nomads; Rampant littering with garbage treatment facilities provided only in cities; and Increasing natural disasters in Tibet.

"Since their occupation of Tibet, the Chinese authorities have imposed a destructive and irresponsible mode of development that ignores the actual social, environmental and economic needs of the Tibetan people. Their declaration of mining and tourism as pillar industries across Tibet clearly contradicts the claim of following a

"sustainable path compatible with the harmonious co-existence of economy, society and ecological environment," the official response said.

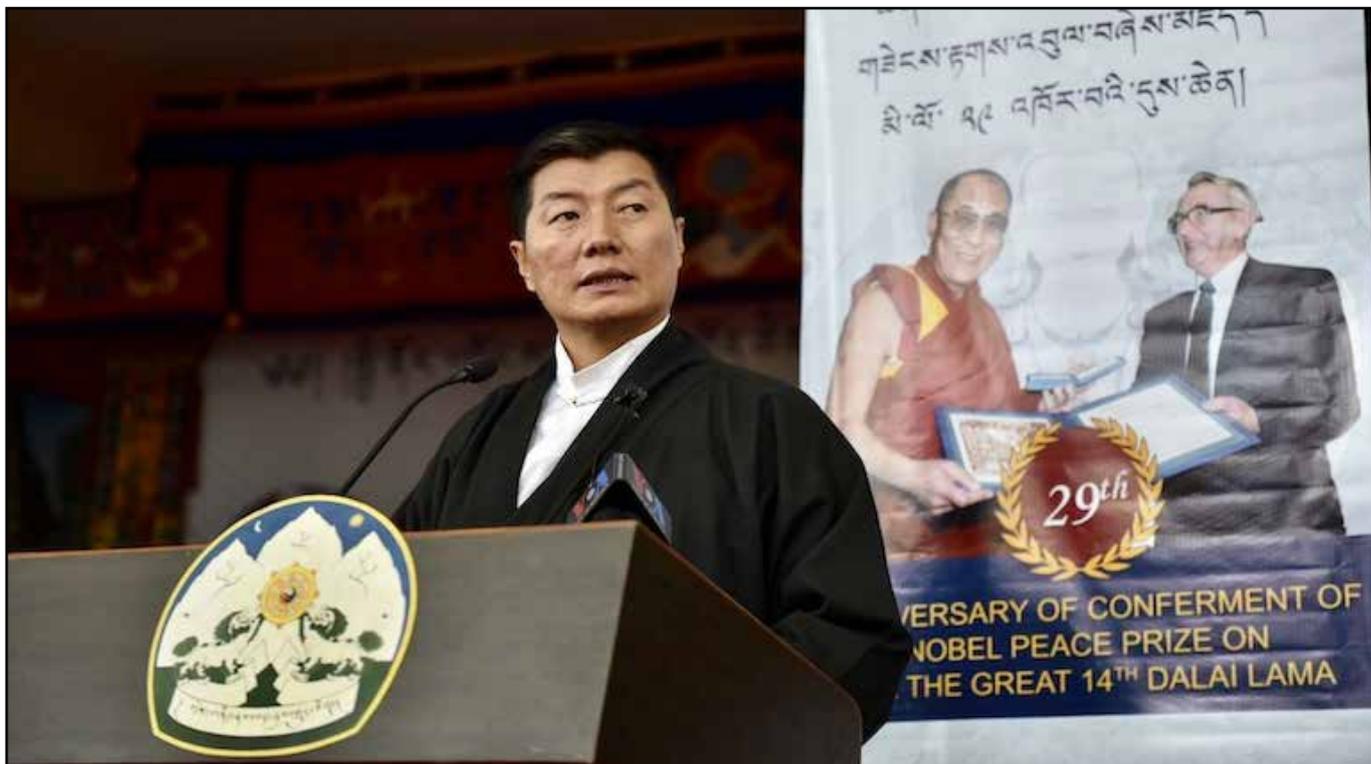
In order to effectively tackle the environmental issues in Tibet, CTA urged the Chinese government to put into practice the following recommendations:

1. Chinese government must respect and protect the rights of the Tibetan people's cultural beliefs in the sanctity of the sacred mountains, lakes and rivers of the Tibetan Plateau.
2. The Chinese government must set firm, uncompromising and transparent license procedures for mining permits in Tibet based on competitive and reliable Environmental Impact Assessments and Social Impact Assessment reports.
3. The Chinese government must also strictly monitor and prohibit mining companies from dumping hazardous mine waste into the surrounding areas and rivers.
4. The Chinese government must also promptly address the poorly planned resettlement programs of Tibetan nomads. Having lost their traditional, self-reliant ways of life, the Chinese Government must provide the newly-resettled nomads with jobs, education, healthcare services and business opportunities to restore their dignity.
5. The Chinese government must involve the local Tibetan population in decision-making processes for any major development projects in Tibet.



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Statement of Kashag on the 29th Anniversary of Conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet



The 15th Kashag of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) expresses its deepest gratitude and bows down to our most revered leader His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. Twenty-nine years ago, His Holiness was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his non-violent campaign for over nearly 40 years to restore freedom for Tibetans in Tibet.

In his acceptance speech, His Holiness said, “No matter what part of the world we come from, we are all basically the same human beings. We all seek happiness and try to avoid suffering. We have the same basic human needs and concerns. All of us human beings want freedom and the right to determine our own destiny as individuals and as peoples.”

His Holiness’ simple, yet powerful words resonate loudly in today’s political discourse and in the beliefs of many people. The little boy from the remote Taktser village in Amdo would go on to touch the hearts of millions because of his kindness and his

staunch commitment to non-violence. From ordinary people to the world’s most influential leaders, His Holiness’ teachings are practised as a way of life and a way to achieve peace and harmony among all human beings.

At present, His Holiness devotes much of his efforts towards reviving the ancient Indian Nalanda tradition. His Holiness engages in discussion with renowned scientists to understand the working of mind and emotion and how this study can be incorporated into modern education to ensure genuine happiness for generations to come. Time and again His Holiness has stressed the importance of studying the Nalanda tradition, irrespective of differences in faith. The Central and State governments of India have fully supported this initiative for which we are grateful.

Today is also observed as the Human Rights Day, and this year the world is celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Article 1 of the UDHR declares, “All human beings are born

free and equal in dignity and rights.” However, the fundamental principles enshrined in this milestone document in international human rights are trampled upon in Tibet under the occupation of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime.

Tibetans in Tibet are subjected to arbitrary detention, imprisonment, torture, and forced disappearances. Various international sources have reported on the CCP’S curtailment of the freedoms of speech, religion, association, assembly and movement. The People’s Republic of China (PRC) continues to violate the UDHR that the world honours in Tibet with impunity.

The CCP has strengthened restrictions on Tibetans wishing to travel for pilgrimage or to visit family members. It has not only resorted to rescinding travel permits, and revoking passports but also made it extremely difficult to obtain the required documentation.

Recently, the so-called Tibet Autonomous Region’s (TAR) Public

Security Bureau issued a circular called “Reporting Leads on Crimes and Violation by Underworld Forces.” The circular lists 22 activities deemed illegal by the PRC, such as the protection of native language, the environment and dissemination of information on the CTA’s Middle Way Approach. Tibetans are required to report to Chinese authorities if these “illegal” activities are being carried out by other Tibetans. The circular is now also being implemented in Tibetan prefectures outside of the so-called TAR.

China’s booming mining industry is also damaging Tibet’s fragile ecology and threatening Tibetans’ traditional way of life. The excessive mining and dam constructions have increased landslides and flooding in various regions like the Driчу River in Jomda and Palyul in Chamdo. Thousands of local Tibetans have had to face evacuation.

The dire conditions in Tibet led to a 23-year-old young man named Dopo from Ngaba to set himself ablaze just last month. Dopo’s self-immolation brings the total number of self-immolations in Tibet to 153 since 2009. Each of the self-immolators has called for an end to Chinese’s illegal occupation of Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

During these difficult times, it is encouraging to see that there are several powerful countries that support the just and moral cause of the Tibetan people.

At China’s third Cycle of Universal Period Review at the UN Human Rights Council, a total of 13 Member States questioned China on the worsening human rights situation in Tibet, in particular, the freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the arbitrary imprisonment of Tibetan language advocate Tashi Wangchuk. The multilateral approach at the UN is a powerful mechanism to hold China accountable and defend the rule of law.

On a national level, in September 2018, the US Congress took a brave and unprecedented move by passing the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act—a bipartisan bill which will impose a visa ban on Chinese officials who deny Americans entry to Tibet. The US Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the introduction of the Act. We trust that the US Senate will follow suit in putting an end to China’s unfair practices and abuse of diplomatic relations.

Many principled countries and people have stood by us, and committed themselves to the Tibetan freedom movement for the past 60 years. In order to express our gratitude to Tibet’s global friends, the Kashag dedicated the year 2018 as the “Year of Gratitude.” This past year we have held Thank You events in various countries including India, Germany, Canada, the US, the Netherlands, Australia, and Switzerland. During our 60 years in exile, Tibet has

made many friends, but we never forgot our old friends. Thank you for standing by us.

We are seeing an increasingly powerful China on the international stage. However, what is notably missing is China’s moral standing. The moral standing—as recognized by the world—is with the Nobel Laureate His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. Therefore, China should accept His Holiness’ Middle Way Approach under which Tibetans seek a genuine autonomy within the framework of the Chinese Constitution. This is a win-win proposition in resolving the issue of Tibet. Until the Chinese government respects the fundamental rights of the Tibetan people, China will not gain respect from the international community.

Six million Tibetans and millions of non-Tibetans around the world look to His Holiness for guidance in leading a peaceful, happy life. It is not too late for the Chinese government to take the right path as well.

Finally, we sincerely pray for a healthy and long life of our most esteemed leader His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet. May all his wishes be fulfilled. May there be an immediate resolution to the issue of Tibet.

Kashag

December 10, 2018

2020 Tibetan Scholarship Program Announcement India and Nepal

The Education Department of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) is pleased to circulate the announcement of 2020 Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP) sponsored by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the US State Department. It is being administered jointly by the Tibet Fund & The Department of Education, CTA. About six (6) candidates from India and one (1) from Nepal will be selected to this

program. Application will be accepted from eligible Tibetan refugees residing in India and Nepal for two-year Master’s Degree programs in the United States, pending the availability of funds. The application form is available alongside. The deadline to apply for the TSP-2020 is March 16, 2019 by 5:00 pm.

Note: All applicants are requested to restrict your upload file size to minimum

and to fill online form with utmost diligence as online application can only be accepted once.

Visit Tibet.net for more details

Statement of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on the 29th anniversary of conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Statement of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile on the occasion of commemorating the 29th anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Today is a momentous occasion marking the 29th anniversary of the day on which the omniscient His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, the head ornament in the domains of cyclic existence and of Nirvana including the heavenly abodes, the spiritual lord of the three realms, champion of peace in this world, the master of the corpus of all the teachings of the Buddha on this earth, the destined deity of the people of the Snowland of Tibet, the supreme Bodhisattva reigning the world emanated in human manifestation, the saviour of all the Tibetan people and their supreme leader, was conferred the most renowned of awards, the Nobel Peace Prize. And I, on behalf of the entirety of the Tibetan people in Tibet and in exile, offer my greetings and congratulations to His Holiness with a feeling of joy, faith and contentment, remembering the gratitude

we all owe to Him.

The Nobel Peace Prize was instituted by Sir Alfred B Nobel (1833-1896), a Swedish chemist, businessman, inventor, and philanthropist. It was as a result of his life-long hard work that a substantial portion of his personal fortune was set aside and endowed in his name to annually honour people who had made outstanding contributions to humanity in such fields of knowledge and endeavour as literature, peace, physical science, chemistry, in medical science or physiology, and economics without any distinction of nationality. It was thus that the Nobel Peace Prize was one of the awards signed into his last will and testament by Sir Alfred B Nobel and is presented each year by tradition on the 10th of December, the anniversary of his passing away in 1896. The Nobel Prize for peace has become particularly renowned across the world for its recognition of those who have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies

and armaments and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses. The first Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1901 and since then it has been awarded 99 times as of the year 2018. And the recipients thus far have included 27 organizations and 106 individuals.

It was in 1989 that the Nobel Prize for peace was awarded to His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the supreme leader of the Tibetan people. The Norwegian Nobel Committee said at that time with emphatic stress: “the Dalai Lama in His struggle for the liberation of Tibet consistently has opposed the use of violence. He has instead advocated peaceful solutions based upon tolerance and mutual respect in order to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of His people. The Dalai Lama has developed His philosophy of peace from a great reverence for all things living and upon the concept of universal responsibility embracing all mankind as well as nature. He has come forward with constructive and forward-looking proposals for the solution of international conflicts, human

rights issues, and global environmental problems.”

Likewise, while accepting the prize at the award ceremony, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said: “I believe the prize is a recognition of the true value of altruism, love, compassion and non-violence which I try to practice, in accordance with the teachings of the Buddha and the great sages of India and Tibet.

“I accept the prize with profound gratitude on behalf of the oppressed everywhere and for all those who struggle for freedom and work for world peace. I accept it as a tribute to the man who founded the modern tradition of non-violent action for change – Mahatma Gandhi – whose life taught and inspired me. And, of course, I accept it on behalf of the six million Tibetan people, my brave countrymen and women inside Tibet, who have suffered and continue to suffer so much. They confront a calculated and systematic strategy aimed at the destruction of their national and cultural identities. The prize reaffirms our conviction that with truth, courage and determination as our weapons, Tibet will be liberated.”

In carrying out all His altruistic deeds in general and especially for the promotion and revival of the globally beneficial Tibetan ethnicity and culture, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has relied solely on the method of nonviolence based on the teachings of the Buddha and on the profound values taught by Mahatma Gandhi. It is by this means that He has sought to achieve a fair outcome for the just cause of the Tibetan people. Likewise, He has at all times borne in mind the need for mutual understanding, friendship, fairness, and compassion in effectively carrying out long term objectives designed to be beneficial to everyone while striving to settle conflicts, assuming responsibility to promote human rights, and working for the protection of the natural environment so as to ensure the realization of a meaningful state of peace in the international community. For these highly admirable noble deeds, which He still continues to remain fully committed to, His Holiness the Dalai

Lama won the heart of the people across the global community and it culminated in the Nobel Peace Prize, the most acclaimed of all awards for peace, being conferred on Him.

Today is an important day worthy of being rejoiced with celebrations for people across the world who value democracy, freedom, and peace. That is why we felt it pertinent to reiterate the historical event that took place 29 years ago.

The Nobel Peace Prize for this year has been awarded to female activist Nadia Murad of Iraq and physician Denis Mukwege of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a show of great feeling of common concern, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said in a congratulatory message to them that the award was recognition of the formidable courage, determination and resilience they had shown in the face of great adversity to help and support fellow human beings who had endured appalling pain and trauma. His Holiness commended them for having put compassion into action and further said the work they had done to restore the well-being of others in need demonstrated the strength of compassion. His Holiness also expressed his great admiration for brothers and sisters like them who had unflinchingly reached out to give comfort and protection to those in dire need of help. And He spoke of looking forward to working with them in their common effort towards making this world a better place for everyone.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama set up ‘The Foundation for Universal Responsibility of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’ in New Delhi in November 1990 with the fund of Nobel Peace Prize award. Through this foundation His Holiness has sought to promote universal human values across the world; to strive to ensure that people across the world coexist in a state of nonviolence and peace; to work towards realizing mutual understanding and fraternity among the different religions of this world, the rights of women as well as the rights of everyone without any gender discrimination, and the protection of the natural environment; to carry out

discussions and conference between science and Buddhism; and engaged in the promotion of Tibetan Buddhism and culture, especially the Nalanda tradition on which it is based. Through these and other means His Holiness remains in continued preoccupation with the issue of Tibet in its vast and numerous aspects.

In His efforts to bring about the realization of an international order which would be founded on peace and which would eschew hostility, His Holiness the Dalai Lama has adopted a set of four commitments directed at bringing about happiness as the common lot of the entire humanity; fraternal relationship among the different religious traditions; the maintenance, preservation and development of the Tibetan Buddhist culture; and the revival of the noble traditions of ancient India inherited by the Tibetan people. In keeping with these commitments, His Holiness has carried out a number of eventful and profound deeds recently while visiting South India, New Delhi, and Ladakh, as well as numerous other countries that included Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland in Europe. More recently, His Holiness also visited the Japanese capital and cities of Tokyo, Yokohama, Fukuoka, and Kashiwa in November in this connection. It was thanks to His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s enormous deeds during such visits that different religious traditions across the world have developed an appreciable depth of mutual respect and friendly relationship. Four International Buddhist Peace Conferences have been held thus far in the course of this development. A Mind & Life Institute has been established and so far a total of 33 Mind & Life Conferences have been held. In particular, the government of India’s national capital region of New Delhi recently introduced a new subject called Happiness Curriculum in its schools. Likewise, at Dharamshala, His Holiness has continued to not only welcome visits by Tibetans, students of different ethnicities from countries across the world, eminent personages, youths, and ordinary masses but also afforded to them numerous counsels commensurate with today’s age and time, directed at efforts to bring peace in

this world, friendly relationship among different religious faith traditions, on education in general and on Tibet's language and script, Buddhist religious characteristics, and the protection of the natural environment in particular, and effort towards improvement in emotional health of every individual so as to thereby bring light to their darkness of ignorance.

In the month of December last year, an interfaith conference was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University with the participation of leaders from the Christian, Islamic, Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Jewish and other religious faiths. While presenting to Him the Syedna Qutbuddin Harmony Prize in recognition of His outstanding efforts in building bridges and promoting peace, Syedna Taher Fakur Fakhruddin Saheb, the head of the Dawoodi Bohra community of the Shia Ismaili Muslims, lauded His Holiness the Dalai Lama for His outstanding efforts in promoting global peace and harmonious coexistence among different peoples on the basis of the recognition of the commonality of all human beings without any distinction founded on religion, race and so on. More recently, in November this year, President Mototaka Hiroike of Reitaku University in the Japanese city of Kashiwa honoured His Holiness the Dalai Lama with an honorary Doctorate of Literature degree of the university. Likewise, numerous governmental as well as private entities of various kinds in many countries have over the decades presented to His Holiness awards and honours running into hundreds. These represent support for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's efforts in the promotion of human rights, freedom, and the well-being of humanity and we, the entire people of the Snowland of Tibet, should justly feel proud of them. In order that all the wishes of His Holiness the Dalai Lama may be seen fulfilled with utmost spontaneity, we should fully carry out in a wholehearted manner His nectar-like advices delivered in pearl-like series on such diverse subjects as fairness, non-violence, endeavours for achieving peace, morality in conduct, efforts at settling disputes in a peaceful manner, being of help to all living

beings, understanding the hygiene of the mind and so on. This is of enormous importance and I appeal to everyone with emphatic stress to carry them out.

Each year, the number support from places across the world for the just cause of the Tibetans keeps increasing substantially as a result of the enormity of the renown and deeds of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. In the early part of November this year, the United Nations Human Rights Council in the Swiss city of Geneva held its third periodic review of China's human rights record during its 31st session. And during the review process, a total of 12 state parties – namely, Australia, Canada, Austria, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Denmark, France, and Japan – made clear their strong concern about the human right situation in Tibet in general and the situation concerning Tibet's natural environment, particularly on the freedom of religious belief, and on freedom of assembly and association which they pointed out were marked by tight restrictions. Besides, they also referred to the situation of the Tibetan language rights activist Mr. Tashi Wangchuk who had been jailed for his activism. And because restrictions imposed on the freedom of religion with regard to the study, teaching, and practice of religion of the people of Tibet were perceived by them to be particularly harsh, it was recommended that China allow a delegation of officials from the United Nations to undertake a visit to investigate the situation without imposing any kind of restrictions in the territory. In particular, they also recommended that in order to settle the issue of Tibet, China resume the mutually beneficial bilateral dialogue on the basis of the Middle Way Approach.

Recently, during His visit to Japan, members of the All Party Japanese Parliamentary Group for Tibet (APJPGT) spoke in one voice to compliment His Holiness the Dalai Lama, whom they had invited to the parliament, for all His personal efforts. They expressed admiration and high praise for him. They also made clear their strong support

for the struggle for the fundamental cause of the Tibetan people. Likewise, governments of countries across the world, parliaments, as well as numerous public and private entities show ever increasing level of support for the Tibetan people's struggle. It is all too obvious to everyone that this shows that the determination of humanity is moving in the direction of democracy, freedom, fairness, and non-violence in keeping with the momentum of the emergent time. Nevertheless, government of China continues to be stubborn in adhering to its hardline position even to this day. And because of it, a major demonstration of protest against the government of China was held in front of the United Nations headquarters in the Swiss city of Geneva on November 6 with the participation of Tibetans, Uyghurs, Mongolians, Taiwanese, and Hong Kong people. Within Tibet, Tibetans people have continued to carry out non-violent protests. And the number of such protests by means of staging self-immolations, has risen to a total of 153 including the most recent immolation by Dobo-la. Among them 131 died.

The government of the communist party of China is clearly seen to pursue a policy of total annihilation of the outer geography and inner natural and human constituent resources of the nation of Tibet. In this connection, it bears pointing out that in October as well as November this year, landslides occurred in Tibet which blocked the Yarlung Tsangpo river and the Driчу river, leading to the creation of barrier lakes. The resultant floods wreaked havoc on the life of the local Tibetan people, destroying a historically antiquated monastery, family homes, school buildings, monastic living quarters and so on. In addition, the geological disasters blocked roads and thousands of Tibetan people were forced to relocate from the disaster zones. The fact that catastrophic major emergencies such as these took place show that the government of China is only interested in the greedy pursuit of wealth by such means as exploiting Tibet's mineral resources, building dams over its rivers and so on without

any consideration for the condition of its natural environment. We accordingly call on the government of China to acknowledge its wrongdoings and, on that basis, imperatively hold discussion on the issue so as to extend help to fully address the hardship of the Tibetan people in recognition of its primary responsibility to solve these problems of our compatriots. Besides, we call on the government of China to release all Tibetan political prisoners, including the language rights activist Mr. Tashi Wangchuk. And we also reiterate our emphatic call on the government of China to dispense with its existing cruel hardline policies and make efforts to resolve the Sino-Tibetan dispute on the basis of the mutually beneficial Middle Way Approach.

In order to achieve resolution of the just cause of the Tibetan people and win ever increasing support for the Tibetan cause, the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile recently undertook a tour of several countries in Europe with an agenda to raise awareness of and win backing for the issue of Tibet from governments, parliaments, and other organizations etc in the international community. Likewise, members of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile were constituted into teams of delegations and each team undertook visits to the different states of India as well as to other countries to lobby for support for the issue of Tibet and this remains an ongoing programme. In particular programmes to meet with public figures in each state of India has been successfully concluded recently. These interactions have resulted in the most positive of outcomes in terms of continuing support for the issue of Tibet.

It is therefore with a feeling of joy and pride that I take the opportunity offered by this occasion to let this be known by the wider public.

A vital matter which all the Tibetan people rooted should firmly bear in mind is the fact that His Holiness the Great 14th Dalai Lama, the savior and protector of all the Tibetan people for this life as well as for lives hereafter of utmost exceptionality, keeps advancing in age. The very fact that His Holiness the Dalai Lama continues to live on this earth is by itself guaranteed to bring joy of utmost fortune – like the sun being at its brightest moment of radiance – to us Tibetan people. Hence, in keeping with a speech with profound implications given by His Holiness the Dalai Lama during His recent sojourn in Ladakh, we should all work to ensure that He lives a longer life. And in order to realize this, all concerned organizations, whether public or private, or welfare and other groups of various kinds, should strive to minimize their visits and other types of engagements for His Holiness the Dalai Lama. This should be kept in mind as a matter of great importance. In this connection the Standing Committee of the Tibetan Parliament in Exile recently submitted an appeal through the Gaden Phodrang Office, requesting that every effort be made to ensure for His Holiness the Dalai Lama more rest times. I therefore appeal to everyone concerned to ensure an effective adherence to the requirement to realize this objective.

With regard to other matters, an International Himalayan Festival is being held today at Dharamshala. And in association with this festival, the general

public of the local host community are also taking part in celebrations marking the anniversary of the conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Such a manner of honouring His Holiness the Dalai Lama for His noble works is a symbolic representation of the fraternal relationship that exists between the Indian and Tibetan peoples. Hence, I wish to compliment and express thanks to all the organizers of this Himalayan festival. Over the last nearly 60 years, the central government of India as well as the state governments and the local administrations at various levels, have extended help, protection and friendship to unimaginable extent of generosity to the Tibetan people and there is no way our gratitude to them could ever be forgotten. Hence, I also take this opportunity to once again express gratitude of the highest order to the central and state governments as well as the people of India. Likewise, I, on behalf of the Tibetan people both in Tibet and in exile, also wish to express heartfelt thanks to all the governmental as well as private entities, and peoples across the world who have thus far extended support to us with great concern for our just cause.

Finally, we pray with great ferventness that His Holiness the Dalai Lama live to the very end of this world and on that basis see all His great wishes fulfilled with great spontaneity and that the just cause of the Tibetan people be seen definitely accomplished in all speediness.

By the Tibetan Parliament in Exile

10 December 2018



‘Changing Geopolitics: Why Tibet Remains the Core in India-China Relations’: Plenary Discussion organised by CTA

The Department of Information and International Relations (DIIR) of Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) organised a plenary discussion on the topic ‘Changing Geopolitics: Why Tibet Remains the Core in India-China Relations’ following the launch of its flagship report titled ‘Tibet was never a part of China: But Middle Way Approach Remains a Viable Solution’ on 29 October 2018 at India International Centre, New Delhi.

The plenary discussion brought together a select group of academicians, experts, scholars, diplomats and journalists for a discussion covering various aspects of the India-China relations viz., territorial and border disputes, environmental impacts and water feuds, policy implications and delved on why Tibet forms the very core of India China relations.

President Dr Sangay in his opening remarks highlighted the significance of Tibet not only from the historical point of view but also in the current geopolitics where China is creating impediments in the rise of India as a global power. He also discussed the Belt and Road Initiative and the infrastructural development by China in the border areas leading to tensions between India and China. He said that it is imperative for India to formulate a China policy by making Tibet a core issue in its dealings with China for a long-term peaceful relationship.

Prof. Madhuri Sondhi, Director of M.L. Sondhi Institute for Pacific Asia Affairs, discussed the significance of Tibet in the India-China Territorial disputes. She highlighted the Tibet, India and China triangle and said that a lot of effort from the Indian government is spent on considering Pakistan as the enemy whereas China is the real problem for India. The border dispute between India and China is, in fact, the most troublesome one where a lot of territories is being conceded to China without even batting an eye.



President Dr Lobsang Sangay speaking on the significance of Tibet not only from a historical point of view but also in the current geopolitics where China is creating impediments in the rise of India as a global power. Photo/Tenzin Phende/DIIR

Discussing his recent trip to Xinjiang, Prof. Siddiq Wahid, Senior Researcher at Centre for Policy Research, India, said that India is not prepared to take up the challenge that is China. Speaking on the topic of “Viewing Tibet, India and China relations through the Himalayan lens” he emphasised the importance of developing a Himalayan policy for the government of India to tackle the menace of China and in this policy Tibet should be kept at the core because ever-since the occupation of Tibet, the Himalayan region has become a “zone of conflict.” The homogenisation of culture through majoritarian rule should not be encouraged as it will only lead to further repression of the minorities.

Speaking on the recent developments of India-China relations and its impact on Tibet, Prof. Yeshe Choedon, an associate professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, discussed the evolving Indian policy towards Tibet. Tibet may have been an issue of Tibetans alone in the early 60s and 70s but now it has become a global issue with the environmental and climate change and an issue of great significance for India with the ever-increasing border incursions, water feuds and geostrategic calculations of China. It is in India’s national interest to make the Tibet issue a core issue in its relation with China and try to find a dignified and honourable solution to the Tibet issue

not only for the sake of Tibetans but also for the security and prosperity of people of Indian sub-continent as well.

The plenary discussion was followed by a question and answer session with the audience. It is important to note that from land to oceans, to rivers, China is flexing its muscles to the detriment of India. China has been constructing dams over major rivers of India like Brahmaputra and Indus, both originating from Tibet, leading to water feuds between the countries. China has even entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Pakistan to build two mega dams, Bhasha and Bunji, on the river Indus in Gilgit – Baltistan area triggering fresh alarms for India. These mega hydro projects have a huge impact on human habitat and environment causing huge financial consequences. The ecocide of Tibet is not only impacting Tibet’s environment but is also contributing to climate change and natural disasters in the region.

Given the ever-changing India’s policy toward China, the issue of Tibet has been evolving over the last 60 years. The discussion provided an opportunity to consider and explore crucial questions related to Tibet as one of the core strategic and geopolitical interests in the larger spectra of India-China relations.

Kasur Gyari Lodi Gyaltsen cremated with full honours



Representatives of Central Tibetan Administration, governments, international organisations, local community and monastics pay tribute to late Kasur Gyari Lodi Gyaltsen.

The last rites of Kasur Lodi Gyari Gyaltsen, former special envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, were performed with full honours at Mindrolling Monastery in Uttarakhand's Clementown on Sunday.



Swami Ramdev pays last respects to late Kasur Gyari Lodi Gyaltsen.

A galaxy of Government leaders and representatives paid their respects to the Tibetan leader. Governor of Uttarakhand, Baby Rani Maurya, former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand and current MP Ramesh Pokhriyal, Representatives from Bhutan government, Nepal, Delhi Embassy were present at the cremation.

Representing the Central Tibetan Administration were Kalon Phagpa Tsering Labrang, Department of Security, Central Tibetan Administration, Election Commissioner and Commissioner of Public Service Commission, Sonam Choephel Shosur, Deputy Speaker of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok, members of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile, Secretary of Department of Information and International Relations, Sonam Norbu Dagpo, Representative Ngodup Dongchung, Bureau of His Holiness the Dalai Lama in New Delhi.

Revered lamas, rinpoches and representatives of the various schools of Tibetan Buddhism also paid homage to Rinpoche.

On 5 November, Rinpoche's mortal remains were flown from San Francisco. Hundreds of people lined up the entrance to Mindrolling Monastery with Tibetan scarves to pay their respects. The remains were preserved in a shrine

in the residence of Penam Rinpoche, Rinpoche's son, until the cremation.

Gyari Rinpoche, a retired Special Envoy of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, former Kalon of Department of Information and International Relations, CTA, former Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and former Executive Chairman of the International Campaign for Tibet, passed away on 29 October 2018 in San Francisco. He was 69.

Rinpoche is survived by his wife, Dawa Chokyi, their 6 children, 5 grandchildren, his mothers, 4 brothers, and 3 sisters.

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Resolution honoring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari introduced in US Senate



File image: Senator Feinstein presents a copy of Senate Resolution 212 to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Also pictured is Lodi Gyari, Special Envoy of the Dalai Lama.

Senator Dianne Feinstein from the state of California introduced a resolution titled S.RES.686 honouring the life, accomplishments, and legacy of Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari on Tuesday, 13 November.

The resolution introduced by Senator Feinstein along with a co-sponsor Mr Menendez and referred to the

Committee on the Judiciary “celebrates the leadership and commitment of Lodi Gyari to fulfilling the vision of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the aspirations of the Tibetan people, including promoting freedom, human rights, and justice for the Tibetan people.”

The resolution commended “the

achievements of Lodi Gyari in building an international coalition of support for Tibet that a) recognises the imperative to preserve the distinct culture and religious traditions of Tibet; and b) that the Tibetan people are entitled to their own identity and dignity and to genuine autonomy within the People’s Republic of China that fully preserves the rights and dignity of the Tibetan people.”

And “strongly supports a political solution for Tibet that satisfies the legitimate grievances and aspirations of the Tibetan people, a cause to which Lodi Gyari devoted his entire life.”

Senator Feinstein has in the past introduced other resolutions in support of the Tibetan people. On 25 April this year, the United States Senate unanimously passed Simple Resolution 429 (S.Res.429) to commemorate the 59th anniversary of Tibet’s 1959 uprising as ‘Tibetan Rights Day’. The resolution was submitted by Senators Dianne Feinstein along with three others: Sen Patrick Leahy, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio.

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Your application, prepared as a single PDF file, should be submitted by email to tibetan_scholarship@stonybrook.edu by 5:00 PM on March 30, 2019. Candidates should apply as soon as their applications are complete and ready.

Documents must be organized in the following order

1. A cover page that includes your full legal name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.

2. Copy of Green book: first page and the page reflecting latest update.

3. Copies of official academic transcripts OR degree and mark sheets of college and university as described above under application requirements.

4. Copy of GRE scores.

5. Letters of Recommendation.

6. Personal essay.

7. Resume.

8. Copy of TOEFL iBT/IELTS scores for international students, if available.

9. WES Credential Evaluation for international students, if available.

Upon receipt of the application, the Program will inform the applicant as to whether the application is complete and under consideration and, subsequently, when a decision has been made.

For further information, applicants can contact Scholarship Program Coordinator, Ms. Cinthia Alvarez-Buonaiuto at tibetan_scholarship@stonybrook.edu.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

CTA Holds Prayer Service for Late Kathok Getse Rinpoche, 7th Nyingma Head

The Central Tibetan Administration organised a prayer service to mourn the demise of Kathok Getse Rinpoche, the 7th supreme head of the Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism. Rinpoche passed away following an accident on 19 November.

Addressing the prayer service, Officiating President and Kalon of Department of Religion and Culture, Ven Karma Gelek Yuthok offered his profound condolences to all followers and devotees of Rinpoche. Kalon offered earnest prayers for Rinpoche's continued blessing and swift reincarnation.

A brief biography of Rinpoche was read out. The prayer service was attended by members of the Kashag, Tibetan parliamentarians, Commissioners of the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission along with staff and officials of the Central Tibetan Administration.

All the offices of the Central Tibetan Administration were shut after the service as a mark of respect and mourning.



Kalon Karma Gelek Yuthok, Department of Religion and Culture, CTA expressing his condolences at the prayer service for late Kathok Getse Rinpoche at T-Building, Gangchen Kyishong, 22 November 2018. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

The fourth Kathok Getse Rinpoche Gyurme Tenpa Gyaltsen, holder of the Kathok Monastery lineage, was appointed as the 7th head of Nyingma school of Tibetan Buddhism for a three-year term, during the spiritual gathering of 29th Nyingma Monlam in Bodh Gaya, in January this year. The



CTA organises prayer service for late Kathok Getse Rinpoche, 7th Nyingma Head.

representatives of the Nyingma school drew a unanimous decision to appoint Kathok Getse Rinpoche and five other Nyingma lamas as the supreme head of Nyingma tradition in a three-year tenure basis. Representatives of six major Nyingma monasteries, Zogchen, Shechen, Mindrolling, Dorje Drak and Palyul will succeed Kathok Getse Rinpoche as the supreme head of Nyingma on the termly basis.

Brief bio-data of Kathok Getse Rinpoche

Kathok Getse Rinpoche was born in Golok, Eastern Tibet, and was recognized by the 16th Karmapa, Jamyang Khyentse Chökyi Lodrö and Adzom Gyalse Gyurme Dorje as the reincarnation of the Third Katok Getse, Gyurme Tenpa Namgyal. From a very early age, Rinpoche received teachings and empowerments from many masters. After coming to exile in 1997, Getse Rinpoche received teachings and empowerments from His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Taklung Tsetrul Rinpoche and Penor Rinpoche among others.

From a very early age, he received teachings and empowerments from many masters such as Katok Moktsa Rinpoche, Khenpo Jikme Phuntsok, His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tubten Pema Trinle, the reincarnation of Adzom Drukpa, Tulku Nyida, son of Tulku Lhatop, himself a son of Dudjom Lingpa. Katok Getse Rinpoche spent



Kalons, Tibetan parliamentarians and staff of the Central Tibetan Administration at the prayer service.

many years in retreat and was known for his mastery of Dzogchen. After exile from Tibet, he divided his time between Kathmandu, where he oversaw Katok Ritrod, Chagdud Gompa small retreat center in Pharping (Nepal), India, and Bhutan.

Scientific innovations should benefit humanity: His Holiness the Dalai Lama at historic dialogue with Chinese Scientists

A distinguished group of Tibetan Buddhist scholars led by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and a panel of Chinese quantum physicists came together for a historic dialogue on Quantum Effect at Dharamshala.

The first ever 'Dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese Scientists on Quantum Effect' is being organised by The Dalai Lama Trust at Tsuglagkhang from 1 to 3 November.

Addressing the extraordinary occasion alongside Nobel laureate Professor Yuan Tseh Lee, His Holiness expressed that he had long wished to hold such dialogue with Chinese scientists. He said the meeting between the Tibetan and Chinese scholars was most appropriate and meaningful given the religious and cultural proximity shared by the two peoples.

His Holiness was also joined by a nine-member panel of scientists which include Dr Shih Chang See, physicist, Dr Chii Dong Chen, Research fellow at the Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, Dr Yueh-Nan Chen, distinguished professor in Department of Physics at National Cheng-Kung University, Dr Shawn Y. Lin, Chair Professor at Future-Chips Constellation and Physics Department of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, Dr Ting-Kuo Lee, Physicist, Professor Maw-Kuen Wu, Research fellow at the Institute of Physics, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, Professor Albert M. Chang, Duke University, Professor Chung-Yuan Mou, Chemistry Department of National Taiwan University.

"China is historically a Buddhist country and follower of Nalanda tradition. Xuanzang, a Chinese scholar and translator, travelled to India in the 7th century and brought Buddha dharma according to Nalanda tradition to China. Therefore, Chinese people traditionally are very closely related to Nalanda tradition and in particular to, Xuanzang tradition," said the Tibetan spiritual



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, alongside fellow Nobel laureate and Professor Yuan Tseh Lee, inaugurating the first ever 'Dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese Scientists on Quantum Effect' organised by The Dalai Lama Trust at Tsuglagkhang from 1 to 3 November 2018. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

leader.

Politically, he said Tibet and China share historical relationship since the time of Tibetan emperor Songtsen Gampo. And more recently, in light of the longstanding issue between Tibet and China. His Holiness reiterated Tibetan's steadfast commitment to remain within the People's Republic of China with their cultural, religious and basic rights ensured.

His Holiness further explained that he has pursued dialogues with the scientific community, particularly western scientists, for more than 30 years, noting that Buddhism has much in common with the fields of cosmology, neurobiology, physics, and psychology.

"I've had useful discussions with scientists for more than 30 years and likewise today's dialogue with several purposes in mind. The first purpose is to extend our knowledge."

"Until the late 20th century scientists mostly investigated physical phenomena. But such field of research was inadequate. However, from the late 20th century, more and more scientists have begun to take a keen interest in the Buddhist explanation of mind and levels of consciousness. Inner experiences such as mind training affect our brains and this is called neuroplasticity. More recently they have acknowledged that

neuroplasticity can be observed as a result of mental training. Consequently, the investigation into the relationship between the brain and the mind began.

He said, "This kind of dialogue is therefore extremely important, as a means of contributing something to future humanity, by enabling each tradition to benefit from the other."

"The second purpose relates to the sad reality that in spite of scientific and technological advancement, human sufferings and emotional crisis are ever growing. Although we are sitting together peaceably here, elsewhere people are being killed or endure starvation and genocide. Scientists warn that constant fear and anger are bad for our health while being compassionate and warm-hearted contributes to our physical and mental well-being. Just as we observe physical hygiene to stay well, we need to cultivate a kind of emotional hygiene too."

He observed that while not everyone accepts religion any more, scientific findings have a more universal appeal.

Therefore, the other purpose, as told by the Buddhist leader, is to draw attention to the importance of warmheartedness and compassion and to discuss how to educate people these values from a secular point of view.

"The present state of the world is being ruled by anger, we need to change it and let compassion rule the world," he told the gathering.

His Holiness concluded his remarks with a vociferous call for a scientific approach to the promotion of warmheartedness.

"Scientific progress and enquiry are essential not only to expand innovations and amass influence but to benefit and serve humanity. Scientific enquiry should be inspired by a collective vision and commitment towards making the

world a better place,” said His Holiness.

In a special remark, The Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama said: “It is an honour to welcome you to the first dialogue between His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama and eminent Chinese scientists on Quantum Effect... We are truly happy to fulfil His Holiness’ wish by inviting distinguished Chinese scientists for what we hope will be a mutually enriching experience.”



Dr Chii Dong Chen presenting on the features of quantum mechanics on the first day of the Dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Chinese Scientists on Quantum Effect on 1 November 2018. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA.

Around 50 Chinese scientists, scholars, researchers, professors and observers are attending the dialogue. Some of the prominent presence were Professor Ming Xia, Dr Thupten Jinpa, Principal translator to His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Visiting Research Scholar at the Stanford Institute for Neuro-Innovation and Translational Neurosciences, Stanford University, Director Geshe Lhakdor, Library of Tibetan Works and Archives and Abbot of Namgyal Monastery Thomthok Rinpoche.

The first session of the dialogue commenced with a presentation by Dr Shih Chang Lee that focused on Space-time symmetry and Quantum Physics, followed by presentation on Quantum mechanics, the theory of entanglement by Dr Chii Dong Chen. After a short break, the session ensued with presentations on Quantum biology and Modern Photonic Revolution—the sun, the light and the photonics chip by Dr Yueh-Nan Chen and Dr Shawn Y. Lin.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

India must share its religious harmony with rest of the world: His Holiness the Dalai Lama

His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Saturday offered India as a model of religious harmony and asked the country to actively promote and share it with the world. He was speaking alongside former Indian Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh at a function organised by National Institute of Panjab Studies in marking of yearlong celebrations of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

“Look at the Parsees, descendants of the Zoroastrians from Persia, in Bombay. There are fewer than 100,000 of them among millions of Hindus, Muslims and Christians, yet they live in peace without fear—that’s India. I believe India should make more of this and show the rest of the world that different religions can live amicably, in harmony, side by side,” His Holiness said.

His Holiness was welcomed by the Director, Dr Mohinder Singh and the President, former Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, with the gift of a sapling. His Holiness was formally welcomed with the gift of a maroon shawl and a framed copy of the Mul Mantra, the first composition uttered by



His Holiness the Dalai Lama, alongside former Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, addressing the audience at celebrations of Guru Nanak’s 550th Birth Anniversary in New Delhi, India on November 10, 2018. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

Guru Nanak Dev upon enlightenment, done in gold leaf.

The celebratory event was attended by spiritual leaders from different faiths, Sikh intellectuals and dignitaries from social and political field including

Dr Inderjit Kaur, Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, Swami Gurdip Giri, Acharya Shrivasta Goswami, Pir Kwaja Syed Nizami and Sir Mark Tully.

His Holiness said, in his address, “It’s a great honour for me to be here for the inauguration of this year-long celebration of the 550th anniversary of Guru Nanak’s birth. Although I don’t know all the details of his life, I have great admiration for Guru Nanak. I am particularly impressed that someone from a Hindu background like his made a pilgrimage to Mecca to express his respect for another religious tradition. This reflects the longstanding Indian tradition of different religions living together in harmony.

“Common to several Indian spiritual traditions are the practices of cultivating a single-pointed, calmly abiding mind (shamatha) and the insights derived from analytical meditation (vipashyana). These practices have led to a cumulative understanding of the workings of the mind and emotions leading to their transformation and the achievement of peace of mind—inner peace. This is a key part of the legacy of Indian civilization and Guru Nanak, like Mahavira and the Buddha before him was a product of such Indian tradition,” he added.

“Recently I took part in a conference of Buddhist monks and when it came to my turn to speak I told them I preferred to be frank and informal. I asked them to consider, when we see conflict arising in the name of religion, whether, in this 21st century, religion remains relevant or not. I asked them why it is that despite pervasive material development and education we still face problems. My suggestion was that modern education is focussed on material goals and leads to a materialistic way of life with the result that people don’t know how to achieve peace of mind.”

He further said, “What’s worse is that although we’re enjoying peace here, in

Syria and Afghanistan people are killing each other in the name of religion, children are starving in places like Yemen and the gap between rich and poor grows ever larger. When our human brothers and sisters are suffering in this way, how can we remain indifferent?

The root of the problem is a lack of karuna or compassion. Whether or not there is a God as some religions believe, what human beings do is important, His Holiness noted.

“And the quality of what they do depends on their motivation, which is why we have to learn how to cultivate a compassionate mind. This is why religions with their message of karuna and ahimsa, compassion and non-violence, is so important. It’s also why mutual respect among our various spiritual traditions is crucial too.”

“So religion remains relevant today. Whether there is a God or no god, a next life or no next life, liberation, moksha, or not—and you,” indicating Prof BN Goswamy, “mentioned truth, which is a difficult word to define, despite their different philosophical views, all our religious traditions talk about love. Modern India should pay more attention to the ancient Indian knowledge of the workings of the mind and emotions with its advice about tackling destructive emotions and achieving a kind of emotional hygiene.

“Let me tease Mark Tully, what we call modern education was by and large imposed on India by the British, but only in India are we likely to see a combination of modern education with methods for achieving peace of mind.”

The event included the inauguration of an exhibition on the Guru’s life and legacy titled “Rahbar-E-Aalam”, which was inaugurated by His Holiness. An impressive gallery of paintings relating to episodes from the Guru’s life and his spiritual legacy was showcased.

Dr Mohinder Singh, president of Bhai Vir Singh Sahitya Sadan thanked His Holiness for his talk on religious harmony and recalled Guru Nanak’s advice to observe the unity of humanity and overcome divisiveness.

He told a story from Guru Nanak’s youth when his father gave him a sum of money with which to do business. Instead, he used it to buy food that he offered to sadhus. Thus began the tradition of the langar, providing food for all without distinction. He suggested there is a need for such an innovative approach to our relations today based on truth, gender equality and universal responsibility.

The keynote speaker, eminent art historian, BN Goswamy gave an account of Guru Nanak who he compared to the legendary Simorgh of the poet Attar of

Nishapur’s literary masterpiece, the ‘Conference of the Birds’. He noted how much Guru Nanak emphasized the importance of truth when he said that truth never grows old, truth survives and truth brings illumination.

After pointing out that there are no known contemporary portraits of Guru Nanak, Goswamy described and explained a series of drawings and paintings displayed on screens before the audience showing various aspects of the Guru’s life. He drew particular attention to a painting which depicted him wearing a robe inscribed with quotations from scriptures of various faiths, revealing his respect for them all. He told a story of Guru Nanak’s being rebuked during his pilgrimage to Mecca for sleeping with his feet pointed at the Kaaba, and his retort, “Show me anywhere where my feet will not be pointed towards God”.

His Holiness and Dr Manmohan Singh were next invited to honour a number of spiritual leaders among the guests with a gift. They included Dr Inderjit Kaur, Sant Balbir Singh Seechewal, Swami Gurdip Giri, Acharya Shrivasta Goswami, Pir Kwaja Syed Nizami and Sir Mark Tully.

His Holiness and Dr Manmohan Singh together planted a sapling that Dr Mohinder Singh said the BVSSS pledged to nurture.

Job Vacancy at Department of Information and International Relations

Public Service Commission of Central Tibetan Administration invites application for the following four (4) vacant posts in the Department of Information and International Relations, Central Tibetan Administration.

Interested candidates can apply for the posts before 5 PM on 16 February 2019. For details on qualification, eligibility, test, and documents required, click here.

Designation: Four Section Officer on a Professional post for the Media section of the Department of Information and International Relations, CTA

Qualifications: Master in Mass Communication from a recognised University

Age Limit: Should not exceed 40 years of age on 16 February 2019

Attested copy of duly paid Green Book

Attested copy of Registration Certificate (RC)

Certificate of medical fitness from a registered physician

Conduct certificate from the

Representative of the applicant’s respective settlement office.

No objection letter, if currently employed, from the employer.

Selection test: Proficiency written test in Tibetan and English with an interview related to Journalism and Mass Communication.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

The question of my reincarnation is not urgent says His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Japan

In an interview with NHK, one of Japan's largest TV broadcasters, this Tuesday His Holiness the Dalai Lama said the question of his reincarnation was not an urgent concern, indicating by gesture that he's in robust health.

As he was asked the question, His Holiness removed his glasses and replied playfully, "Look at my face, is the need to address the question of my reincarnation urgent?"

His Holiness also added in the interview that all options for choosing his reincarnation were open, including nominating an already living person as the successor.

Further on the selection process, His Holiness explained that as far back as 1969 he had made it clear that the choice of whether another Dalai Lama would be recognised rested with the Tibetan people. That choice precedes any decision about how a successor may be chosen. It could be that the traditional way of identifying a reincarnation will be followed, but there have also been cases of Lamas nominating an already living person as their successor.

He mentioned the upcoming meeting of Tibetan Buddhist leaders in Dharamshala at November end, which he said will primarily focus on raising the quality of Buddhist knowledge and practice but indicated that the question of his reincarnation may be on the agenda.

His Holiness is currently on a ten-day teaching tour in Japan. This is his 25th visit to the country.

In a second interview with President of Japan Institute of National Fundamentals, Yoshiko Sakurai, His Holiness discussed the current situations inside Tibet, self-immolation protests and the future of Tibet.

Responding to Ms Sakurai's remarks on Chinese treatment of Tibetans and



Ms Yoshiko Sakurai, president of the Japan Institute of National Fundamentals, interviewing His Holiness the Dalai Lama in Yokohama, Japan, 13 November 2018. Photo/Tenzin Choejor/OHHDL

Uyghurs, His Holiness replied that he saw the past 70 years in terms of four eras affected by Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Xi Jinping. Although the same party remained in power, guided by the same constitution, nevertheless great changes had taken place.

He remarked that there still remained room for further change. "1.2 billion Chinese have a right to know what is really going on and when they know that, they can judge what's right from what's wrong."

"In Tibet, even as suppression has increased, Tibetans have continued to pursue non-violence," His Holiness said. He highlighted the cases of the more than 150 people who have committed self-immolation as examples, saying that they were very sad on the one hand, but on the other were worthy of admiration because they remained non-violent, at least in relation to others.

His Holiness stated firmly that the Tibetans resolved not to seek the independence of Tibet but to achieve genuine autonomy within the framework of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

"Since 1974 we haven't been seeking independence for Tibet, being prepared instead to remain within the People's Republic of China. Much has changed in China over the last 40 years. The number of Buddhists has grown to more

than 300 million, many with an interest in Tibetan Buddhism. Meanwhile, even hardliners among the officials are in a dilemma about how to deal with Tibet. They see that 70 years of suppression and attempted brainwashing hasn't diminished the Tibetan spirit.

"Instead of independence, we are seeking mutual benefit. The Chinese can help us with infrastructural development and we can help them with Buddhist psychology. So, our Middle Way Approach is an attempt to reach a mutual agreement for mutual improvement. Some Tibetans exercise their freedom to remain set on independence such as we enjoyed in 7th, 8th and 9th centuries.

"However, I am a great admirer of the spirit of the European Union that places the common interest of all its members above individual nation's concerns. India too is a federation of states with different languages, cultures and religious traditions that are part of a union. I venture to imagine some kind of future union prevailing between India, China and Japan."

His Holiness said he hoped for genuine autonomy to be granted in Uyghur, Mongol and Tibetan regions.

Addressing a question on how Japanese and Tibetans can contribute to the welfare of humanity, His Holiness offered his admiration for the Shinto Tradition and its appreciation of natural environment. He explored the possibility of combining technological development with a deep understanding of the workings of the mind to enable more people to find inner peace.

His Holiness expressed hope for Japan, as a country that has endured a nuclear attack, to lead efforts towards denuclearisation.

For detailed news visit:
www.tibet.net

His Holiness the Dalai Lama hopes India's Ancient Wisdom can enrich the world

Debunking the idea that destructive emotions are a natural part of human behaviour, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said on Monday that humans are innately compassionate and through the teachings of the ancient Indian wisdom, one can tackle and eliminate them.

“In India, for centuries, there’s been a practice of ahimsa or nonviolence and secular principle. Besides, celebrating the diversity of religion and culture, India’s secular principle accords respect to non-believers. This is key to building peace and understanding,” His Holiness said, inaugurating his three-day teachings for Indian devotees at Sankisa, Uttar Pradesh.

The teachings are being organised by the Youth Buddhist Society of India. YBS India is a volunteer, governmental, non-sectarian, non-political people’s development movement based on Engaged Buddhism established in the year 1986 in Sankisa by Suresh Chandra Bauddha in Uttar Pradesh, India.

More than 15,000 people, mainly Indian devotees, had gathered at the YBS ground to listen to His Holiness’ dharma discourse. Kalon Trisur Professor Samdhong Rinpoche and representatives from Tibetan and non-Tibetan Buddhist monastic communities were present too.

His Holiness implored that Indian understanding of secular is truly befitting in today’s world. “If you respect all communities of religion and those without, you will not indulge in violence or harming others. It’s very important for us to take an earnest lesson from these thousand years old secular principle.”

He argued not every human being subscribes to religion and even within religion, there are philosophical differences and views. “Without touching religion as such, we can practice love and compassion in a secular way.”



His Holiness the Dalai Lama with a group of students from neighboring village schools after they chanted prayers in Pali language to open the first day of his teachings in Sankisa, UP, India on 3 December 2018. Photo/Lobsang Tsering/OHHDL

Tagging himself as a practising student of Nalanda tradition, His Holiness said he sees the relevance of the ancient wisdom and endeavours to revive it in modern India

“The world today is facing a serious crisis of emotions. Even In the most highly developed countries, despite the material development, progress and prosperity, we see that there’s a mental and psychological disturbance in many people. Without the understanding of human emotions and training, we easily resort to weapon and force.”

His Holiness said he has faith that the younger generation of India can bring the change through reviving the teachings of ancient Indian wisdom.

“The violence of the 20th century have claimed more than 200 million people killed in the violence. Now, we should build a century of peace, not through prayer, but through our own practice.”

By practice, His Holiness refers to the practice of ancient Indian traditions that deal with concentration and insight, shamatha and vipassana, that have accumulated a profound understanding of the workings of the mind.

“Irrespective of one’s religious belief, his ancient knowledge remains relevant

today because it can equip us to deal with our destructive emotions and bring about a transformation of the mind.”

His Holiness also alluded to India’s centuries-old religious harmony, calling it previous and admirable.

“India should serve as a role model for the rest of the world. With more than a billion population and for many centuries, India has practised and preserved its religious harmony. Hence, it shows that religious harmony is possible. Therefore, I urge my Indian friends to show to rest of the world that is possible.

Delving into different religious branches and its purpose, he said there are different philosophical views within a religion and that is to enable human beings in further developing our practice of love and compassion.

“In the Nalanda tradition of Buddhism, there are four schools of thoughts: Sarvastivada Vaibhashika; Sarvastivada Sautrantika; Madhyamaka, the Mahayana philosophy of Nagarjuna; and Chittamatra, the Mahayana philosophy of Asanga and Vasubandhu.

“Among these four, there are lots of arguments and criticisms against one another but these criticism are not to create disharmony but to do more investigation into the teaching of Buddha for our spiritual and mental development.”



Now is time for serious climate action: His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s call to COP24 delegates



“In spite of the huge technological developments that have taken place in our modern world, we have created many problems, too. Experts tell us that human beings are responsible for global warming and the change in weather conditions. Logically this means that we human beings have a responsibility to reduce problems that we have caused, and finally to eliminate them.

“Climate change is not the concern of just one or two nations. It is an issue that affects all humanity, and every living being on this earth. This beautiful planet is our only home. If, due to global warming or other environmental problems, the earth cannot sustain itself, there is no other planet to wish we can move. We have to take serious action now to protect our environment and find constructive solutions to global warming.

“When we see photographs of the earth from space, we see no boundaries between us, just this one blue planet. This is no longer a time to think only of ‘my nation’ or ‘our continent’ alone. There is a real need for a greater sense of global responsibility based on a sense of the oneness of humanity.

“I want to thank United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for consistently working to reduce the negative impact of climate change and pray that this conference will be a success.”

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has urged world leaders meeting in Poland for the COP24 Climate Conference to take a serious transformative action on tackling climate change and find “constructive solutions to global warming.”

Delegates and decision makers from almost 200 countries are currently meeting at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Poland. The Conference aims to hammer out a roadmap for putting into practice the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama has, for many decades, advocated for environmental and climate change action. He has authored many articles and opinions on protecting the world’s environment. His Holiness has also made environment conservation one of his three lifelong commitments.

Message from His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Delegates at COP24, Poland, dated 20 November 2018

“I extend my greetings and prayers to my dear brothers and sister, delegates to the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

“I would sincerely like to thank all of you who have selflessly and tirelessly put effort into creating a better environment for the world so that future generations will be able to live a healthy, happy life.

“As someone born in Tibet, the rooftop of the world, where Asia’s great rivers and on which the world’s highest peaks are to be found, I have loved nature since my childhood. I have made environmental conservation one of my life’s commitments and advocate protection of the environment wherever I go.



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“I am healthy, my mind is sharp and I pray to live for over hundred years”: His Holiness the Dalai Lama at Tenshug ceremony, Bodh Gaya



President Dr Lobsang Sangay, Central Tibetan Administration presenting the offerings to His Holiness the Dalai Lama during the Long Life Offering ceremony organised by the Central Tibetan Administration, Namgyal Monastery and Shelkhar Ngashap at the Kalachakra Teaching Ground in Bodhgaya, 31 December 2018. Photo/Tenzin Phende/CTA

Tibetans across the world ended the year 2018 on an auspicious note with blessings from their spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama who affirmed—yet again—to live for more than hundred years for the benefit of Tibetan people and the cause.

Speaking at the Long Life prayers organised by Central Tibetan Administration, Namgyal Monastery and Shelkhar Ngashap, His Holiness the Dalai Lama said, “At such a critical juncture in our history, I think I have done a considerable service to the Tibetan cause and people. Even today, I am very healthy, my mind is extremely sharp and I pray to live for more than hundred years to continue my service. Similarly, all of you should collectively pray.”

President of Central Tibetan Administration, Heads of the three pillars of Tibetan democracy which includes the Kashag, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile and the Tibetan Supreme Justice Commission, heads of the Autonomous

bodies and all the CTA Offices were represented at the Tenshug ceremony.

“There are millions of Tibetans in Tibet who have expressed unwavering faith and prayers for my health and long life. I accept this offering as being made on their behalf,” His Holiness said.

The Tenshug ceremony also witnessed invocation of Tibetan protectors namely Nechung, Tsering Ché-nga, Kharak Khyung Tsün, one of the Twelve Tenma, Thanglha oracle and Machen Pomra.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama told the gathering that he had requested all the protector deities related to Gaden Phodrang to be invoked to take part in the prayer offering for his long life.

“With their participation, today’s prayer offering will be symbolised as a collective prayer from both the people and the protector oracles of the land of snow.”

His Holiness added, “I am given the title as the Crowning Jewel of Gods and

Others, hence it is most appropriate that the oracles and humans jointly make this offering.”

He mentioned that the oracles, particularly the Nechug Dorje Drak shares a unique spiritual connection with the lineage of Dalai Lamas.

“They have existed for a long time to serve the flourishing of Tibetan Buddha dharma, the happiness of sentient beings and most importantly for the happiness of the people of Tibet.”

“Therefore, it is common responsibility of the humans and the oracles to work for the Tibetan cause.”

Elaborate ceremonial offerings were presented to His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Representing the collective aspirations of six million Tibetans and their fervent prayers for His Holiness’ long life, CTA made an offering of 113 statues of Buddha. The offering is an auspicious symbol of His Holiness the Dalai Lama’s long life.

The Tenshug offering is also being observed for the pacification of all obstacles of this 84th year of His Holiness’ life, and for the fulfilment of his benevolent wishes.

On the occasion, CTA presented Buddha statues to all the 276 Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and nunneries across India, Nepal and Bhutan. Representatives and caretakers of the monasteries and nunneries took part in the ceremony.



Tibet gets a warmer reception as world wakes to Beijing's methods

By Peter Hartcher, The Sydney Morning Herald

The leader of Tibet's government-in-exile has been telling his story about Bob Carr around the world for years and always gets a laugh. Last week he recounted it during a visit to Parliament House in Canberra.

Ever since the Dalai Lama split his job into two some years ago, remaining spiritual leader of the Tibetans in exile and handing over the political leadership to be elected from among the free Tibetans, Lobsang Sangay has been their President.

In 2013 Sangay visited Canberra and a reporter asked him whether Carr, Australia's then foreign affairs minister, would be meeting him. It's always a delicate matter.

A government that meets the Dalai Lama or Sangay risks the wrath of the Chinese Communist Party, which has claimed to be the sole representative of the Tibetan people ever since its army invaded Tibet in 1950.

"I said I'd love to, but I haven't asked for a meeting", not wanting to put Carr in a difficult position, he recalled last week. "I'm sure that, given the choice, Bob Carr would like to meet because that's the Buddhist culture – we like to believe people are good."

Later in his visit, the Tibetan leader was riding the lift from Parliament's subterranean carpark into the building when the lift stopped. "The doors open and Bob Carr walks in," the Harvard-educated legal scholar tells me. The Labor backbencher Michael Danby, Sangay's escort for the visit, introduced the two men in the lift: "I had to decide at that moment whether to extend my hand or not. The Tibetan way is to not cause inconvenience, so I nodded and smiled. He kind of nodded – a little bit – then walked past.

"I like to say that we didn't have a formal meeting but we had a karmic meeting. No matter how powerful the

Chinese government may be, it can't prevent the foreign minister of Australia from meeting me."

Perhaps, but the Chinese Communist Party has certainly managed to hold things up pretty successfully. Paul Keating as prime minister met the Dalai Lama in 1992. John Howard as prime minister met him in 1996 and 2007.

The last time that any Australian prime minister or government minister met either leader of the Tibetan government-in-exile was when Peter Garrett, then schools education minister in the Gillard government, met the Dalai Lama in private in his hotel room in 2011. Karmic meetings with Carr aside.

Sangay in Parliament House. Not in a lift or in secret or hidden away in a hotel room but during a public ceremony in the main committee room.

"Minister Wyatt is not just principled and brave" for meeting the President of the free Tibetans, "but also a genuinely nice human being", Sangay tells me after the meeting. "Normally people will meet you when they're not in government and then when they are in government they say, 'Understand that I'm in a difficult position'."

Partly this was a personal commitment from Wyatt to the Tibetan cause. Wyatt, the first Indigenous minister in an Australian federal government, spoke at the ceremony last week of the "parallels



Illustration: Dionne Gain CREDIT:

Carr is now a cheerleader for the Beijing government as head of the Australia-China Relations Institute.

So for seven years Australian governments, Labor and Liberal, comprehensively shunned the Tibetans, an indicator of the rising power of the Chinese government to intimidate Australia.

Until last week. A minister in the Morrison government, Ken Wyatt, Minister for Aged Care and also Minister for Indigenous Health, met

between indigenous Australians and the Tibetans".

But it's also a marker of Australian relations with the Tibetans in exile, and a marker in Australian relations with Beijing. Kyinzom Dhongdue is a member of the Tibetan parliament in exile, representing Tibetans in Australasia and East Asia, and she observes: "Even in the last year or so there's a more balanced view of China not just as a trading partner but China is being seen as a threat, so Tibetan worries and experience are feeling

more relevant. This year I've found it easier to get meetings – people are more interested in what we have to say.”

And it wasn't just Wyatt at the ceremony with Sangay in Parliament House. There were 23 MPs and senators in total including Labor's Michael Danby and Lisa Singh, Liberals Warren Entsch, Kevin Andrews, Concetta Fierravanti-Wells and Jason Falinski, Greens leader Richard Di Natale, Nationals MP George Christensen, Centre Alliance senator Rex Patrick plus Derryn Hinch, as well as former Labor foreign affairs minister Gareth Evans, now chancellor of ANU.

And how is the Tibetan experience more relevant today? The emerging stories of the shocking mass repression of another of China's ethnic and religious minorities, the Uighur people of China's Xinjiang Province, “means that it's more than about one example”, says Sangay.

Uighur residents in Australia holding up

photos of relatives who are missing, in internment camps or have passed away.

“Now we have a million people in detention in Xinjiang” in what Beijing calls re-education camps. Uighur leader Rebiya Kadeer calls them “concentration camps” where Uighurs, including young children, are imprisoned without due process and held indefinitely.

And then there's Beijing's enormous One Belt, One Road international infrastructure program. “We lost our country because of one road,” says Sangay. “First the road came, then the trucks came, then the guns came, then the tanks came. It's the exact blueprint” for domination now on offer to scores of countries under Belt and Road, he says.

Finally, there's the experience of what Sangay calls “elite co-option”. “We have seen this for 60 years and now you see it around the world in one country after another”, and he has a litany of examples.

Money, contracts, government access, favours are on offer in return for loyalty to Beijing and its agents.

If Tibet's long suffering under Chinese Communist Party repression is more relevant to the wider world, the wider world is also waking up to Beijing's wide-ranging influence programs. The West's gathering determination to exclude China's telecoms gear manufacturer Huawei is an example. And Australia's laws against foreign interference are another.

Those laws took effect on Monday. Anyone in Australia acting as an agent of a foreign power must register with the federal government. If suspected foreign agents fail to register, they can be issued a notice to show cause why they shouldn't be considered to be working on behalf of a foreign power.

Do more karmic encounters lie ahead?

USCIRF Welcomes Enactment of Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act

The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) commends President Donald Trump's signing of the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act, bipartisan legislation that establishes consequences for Chinese government officials responsible for restricting access to Tibetan areas by United States journalists, diplomats, tourists, and citizens, including Tibetan Americans.

In its 2018 Annual Report, USCIRF recommended that the Congress pass this legislation. Chair Tenzin Dorjee urged passage on numerous occasions, including when testifying before Congress in September 2018 on religious freedom in China, as well as in testimony specifically about Tibet in February of this year and in July 2017.

“As a Tibetan American who has the desire and the right to visit Tibet, I commend President Trump for signing this important bill. The unanimous passage of this act by the Congress

sends a strong message to China that it cannot keep Tibet—and the myriad human rights abuses its government commits there—hidden from the world. If Chinese officials want to freely visit the United States, they need to reciprocate access to Tibet, or else the concerned Chinese officials will face consequences. I strongly urge the President to implement this law to the full extent,” said Dorjee.

“I also want to commend Representatives McGovern and Hultgren, co-chairs of the bipartisan Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Senators Rubio and Baldwin, and all Members of Congress for supporting this legislation,” added Dorjee. “Their bipartisan leadership brings attention to the Chinese government's religious freedom and related human rights violations against Tibetan Buddhists, ensuring that their abuses will no longer remain in the shadows.”

USCIRF has repeatedly recommended

that the State Department designation China a “country of particular concern” (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act for systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom, including against the Tibetan people. On November 28, the State Department again designated China as a CPC.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan federal government entity established by the U.S. Congress to monitor, analyze and report on threats to religious freedom abroad. USCIRF makes foreign policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State and Congress intended to deter religious persecution and promote freedom of religion and belief. To interview a Commissioner, please contact USCIRF at Media@USCIRF.gov or Kellie Boyle at kboyle@uscirf.gov or +1-703-898-6554.

China is exporting the Great Firewall as internet freedom declines around the world

By James Griffiths, CNN

Hong Kong (CNN)Speaking before an elite audience in Washington in March 2000, then US President Bill Clinton summarized much of Western thinking on the internet when he hailed a new century in which “liberty will be spread by cell phone and cable modem.”

This would occur, Clinton said, despite the efforts of countries like China to fight the spread of information.

“Now there’s no question China has been trying to crack down on the internet,” Clinton said, his eyebrows arched as he neared the punchline. “Good luck! That’s sort of like trying to nail jello to the wall.”

In the decades since that speech, Clinton’s jello comment has become a something of a dark joke among internet freedom advocates, as China continued to build up the Great Firewall, the world’s most sophisticated system for controlling and surveilling the web.

A new report out this week shows that China is by far the most effective censor of the internet, and far from retreating, is exporting its model around the world. Beijing has consistently defied all the confident predictions (including by people far more knowledgeable about the internet than Clinton) that this would be impossible. China’s censors have reigned in blogs, social media, and US search giants, and repeatedly defeated or stymied any attempts to undermine the Firewall, from virtual private networks (VPNs) to the dark web.

Sunday Yokubaitis, chief executive of VPN company Golden Frog, told CNN they have “witnessed a massive increase” in attempts to block their services in China.

“We used to see blocks roughly once every six weeks; they now try to block our service multiple times every day,” he said.



As I document in my book, “The Great Firewall of China: How to Build and Control an Alternative Version of the Internet,” Beijing’s model of the internet is now spreading beyond its borders, with China’s censors working actively with their counterparts in Russia, Uganda and a host of other countries to build up internet controls and crack down on online dissent.

A new report from Freedom House — a US government-funded NGO — supports this. During 2018, the authors found, “internet freedom declined for the eighth consecutive year.”

“A cohort of countries is moving toward digital authoritarianism by embracing the Chinese model of extensive censorship and automated surveillance systems,” Freedom House said.

China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular press conference Thursday that the report’s findings “are sheer fabrications.”

“They are unprofessional, irresponsible and made with ulterior motives,” Lu added.

Forlorn hope

During the early decades of the internet, many influential thinkers claimed the internet — by its very nature — would spread democracy and freedom of speech.

The combined forces of globalization and the web were, Thomas Friedman wrote in 2000, “acting like nutcrackers to open societies.”

But as writer Evgeny Morozov has demonstrated, this assumption was

often based on a willful misreading of the events of the Cold War, and the effectiveness of strategies like smuggling photocopiers and fax machines through the Iron Curtain and Radio Free Europe broadcasts.

“Viewing it through the prism of the Cold War, they endow the internet with nearly magical qualities; for them, it’s the ultimate cheat sheet that could help the West finally defeat its authoritarian adversaries,” Morozov writes. “In other words, let them tweet, and they will tweet their way to freedom. By this logic, authoritarianism becomes unsustainable once the barriers to the free flow of information are removed. If the Soviet Union couldn’t surprise a platoon of pamphleteers, how can China survive an army of bloggers?”

In fact, as the Freedom House report demonstrates, the internet is an excellent tool for social control, enabling surveillance and guiding of public opinion that would have been impossible in the past.

This has been further boosted by the ongoing panic in the US and other countries which have typically been the biggest proponents of internet freedom over fake news and alleged election interference online.

“Throughout (2018), authoritarians used claims of ‘fake news’ and data scandals as a pretext to move closer to the China,” the report said. “Governments in countries such as Egypt and Iran rewrote restrictive media laws to apply to social media users, jailed critics under measures designed to curb false news, and blocked foreign social media and communication services.”

Global model

Since the first virtual blocks were laid in the Great Firewall, China has acted as a potential model for online censorship, with everyone from Bono

to US lawmaker Joe Lieberman citing Beijing’s policies in arguments for greater internet controls.

In recent years, however, especially since President Xi Jinping came to power, China has actively worked with foreign governments to help them build firewalls of their own, and lobby at the United Nations and other bodies to reduce protections for internet freedom worldwide.

This week, the UN’s International Telecommunication Union gathered for its quadrennial meeting in Dubai. In the past, the ITU has been a key body for China and other leading internet censors, particularly Russia, to push for changes to international regulations to legalize or enable their controls.

In 2015, China succeeded in expanding the ITU’s powers and those of national governments to set internet policy, though Chinese delegates failed to remove the terms “freedom of expression” and “democratic” from a key internet governance document.

While the meeting has only just got underway, most experts expect the issue of internet governance — the key argument over which boils down to whether only governments should be able to set global policy, or if civil society and industry should have a role

as well — to dominate matters again in Dubai.

China’s position is that national governments have the ultimate right to control the internet within their borders, and that this covers foreign companies, citizens, and anyone who attempts to interfere by, for example, creating software to undermine the Great Firewall.

The doctrine of cyber sovereignty, as advocated by Xi Jinping, will be on full display next month at China’s own World Internet Conference in the southern Chinese river town of Wuzhen. This year’s forum “will further enhance the establishment of an internet development outlook characterized by mutual trust and collective governance among countries worldwide,” according to Liu Liehong, deputy director of the Cyberspace Administration of China, the country’s top censor.

Worrying trend

As well as working to change international law and craft a model of internet control that can be easily adopted by other countries, Chinese officials and companies have also been actively engaged in the groundwork of building censorship networks overseas. Golden Frog’s Yokubaitis said his company had seen Chinese-style tactics being adopted in Russia and the Middle

East, adding that China is “exporting blocking technologies to countries with repressive regimes.”

The Freedom House report said that Beijing was taking steps to “propagate its model abroad” with large-scale trainings of foreign officials, providing censorship and surveillance technology, and pressuring international companies to comply with Chinese standards even when operating outside the country.

“These trends present an existential threat to the future of the open internet and prospects for greater democracy around the globe,” the report said.

It listed 57 countries, from European democracies to Central Asian autocracies, which had bought telecom infrastructure, AI surveillance tools, or attended or hosted trainings by Chinese censors and propaganda operatives.

“Democratic governments will have to devote much greater diplomatic and other resources to countering China’s charm offensive on the international stage,” Freedom House added. “More governments are turning to China for guidance and support at a time when the United States’ global leadership is on the decline, and the acquiescence of foreign companies to Beijing’s demands only emboldens the regime in its effort to rewrite international rules in its favor.”

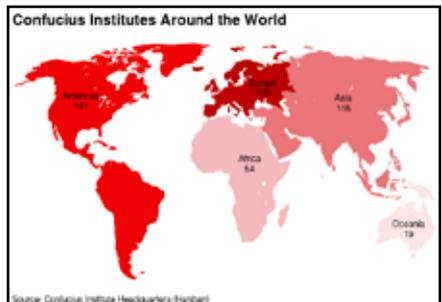
University of Michigan to Close Confucius Institute

By Tanner Brown

The University of Michigan said Monday it will not renew its agreement with the Confucius Institute when the partnership expires in 2019.

The university cast the reasoning as a desire to expand its own internal China-focused programs.

“This transition is driven by a desire to more broadly include the work of exploring and studying Chinese visual and performing arts within U-M’s regular academic and cultural units,” said James Holloway, vice provost for



global engagement and interdisciplinary academic affairs, according to a university announcement.

Confucius Institutes, which are affiliated with China’s Ministry of Education,

have provoked concerns about political influence on the universities where they are hosted. Several in the U.S. have closed amid such concerns.

By the end of last year, 525 Confucius Institutes and 1,113 Confucius Classrooms had been established in 138 countries and regions in the 14 years since the first one was opened in Seoul, South Korea.

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QUOTES

“Instead of independence we are seeking mutual benefit. The Chinese can help us with infrastructural development and we can help them with Buddhist psychology. So, our Middle Way Approach is an attempt to reach mutual agreement for mutual improvement.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during His Holiness the Dalai Lama Interview in Yokohama on 13 November 2018

“I sometimes ask if religion is relevant today and since everyone needs love and affection, the answer seems to be “Yes”. However, it’s crucial that members of different religious traditions live in harmony with each other.” His Holiness the Dalai Lama during Meeting with an Interfaith Forum on 21 December 2018

“China’s booming mining industry is also damaging Tibet’s fragile ecology and threatening Tibetans’ traditional way of life. The excessive mining and dam constructions have increased landslides and flooding in various regions like the Drichu River in Jomda and Palyul in Chamdo. Thousands of local Tibetans have had to face evacuation.” President Dr Lobsang Sangay in the official statement of Kashag on 10 December 2018

“The government of the communist party of China is clearly seen to pursue a policy of total annihilation of the outer geography and inner natural and human constituent resources of the nation of Tibet. In this connection, it bears pointing out that in October as well as November this year, landslides occurred in Tibet which blocked the Yarlung Tsangpo river and the Drichu river, leading to the creation of barrier lakes.” Speaker Pema Jugney in the official statement of Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile on 10 December 2018
